

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Fifty-two years ago in 1964, Sir Paul McCartney, a member of the legendary musical foursome, The Beatles, stepped off a plane at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York City, to face a legion of screaming fans and usher in a new era of music into the United States; and

WHEREAS: On September 18, 1964, Sir Paul, along with his bandmates, landed in Arkansas during a brief layover in Walnut Ridge and changed the atmosphere of the small community. Walnut Ridge celebrates the occasion each year with the Beatles at the Ridge Music Festival, bringing in thousands of tourists and contributing to the local and state economy; and

WHEREAS: During the late 1960's, Sir Paul enriched the landscape of a generation. The song, *Blackbird*, spoke to a racially divided America and was especially poignant to the citizens of Arkansas. The Little Rock Nine, who had been desegregated from Central High School in 1957, served as inspiration for the song; and

WHEREAS: Sir Paul McCartney and the music of the Beatles generated a cultural phenomenon. He has sold millions of records, but more importantly, he has touched the hearts and lives of many people and inspired future generations of musicians across Arkansas, America and the world; and

WHEREAS: Knowing music is an impetus for change, Sir Paul is a selfless philanthropist who gives of his time and his talent to raise billions for charity; and

WHEREAS: The people of Arkansas pay tribute to Sir Paul McCartney for his gifts and extraordinary contributions and for unifying people through the international language of music;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 30th, 2016, as

SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Mark Martin, Secretary Of State